



## Thames Gateway Kent Partnership Board

Approved Minutes of the Thames Gateway Kent Partnership Annual General Meeting held on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2020 via videoconference

### Present:

#### Board members and observers

Rob Bennett, BBP Regeneration / SQW (Chair) (RB)  
Cllr Monique Bonney, Swale Borough Council (MB)  
Cllr John Burden, Gravesham Borough Council (JB)  
Cllr Martin Cox, Maidstone Borough Council (MC)  
Cllr Alan Jarrett, Medway Council (AJ)  
Cllr Jeremy Kite, Dartford Borough Council  
Cllr Mike Whiting, Kent County Council (MW)  
Ian Piper, Ebbsfleet Development Corporation (IP)  
David Glead, North Kent College

### Also present:

Stuart Bobby, Gravesham Borough Council (SB)  
Alison Broom, Maidstone Borough Council (AB)  
Neil Davies, Medway Council (ND)  
Sheri Green, Dartford Borough Council (SG)  
Dawn Hudd, Medway Council (DH)  
Richard Longman, TGKP (RL)  
Sarah Nurden, Kent CC (SN)  
Nigel Smith, Kent CC (NS)  
Emma Wiggins, Swale Borough Council (EW)

### Apologies:

Kamal Aggarwal, Thomson, Snell and Passmore  
Carole Barron, University of Kent  
Daniel Ghinn, Creation Interactive Ltd  
Robert Goodman, Land Securities/Bluewater  
Paul Jackson, Dovetail Games  
Shona Johnstone, Homes and Communities Agency

Adam Bryan, South East LEP  
Sally Harvey, Environment Agency  
Iain McNab, BEIS  
David Smith, Kent County Council  
Rehman Chishti, Member of Parliament

### Action

#### Item 1. Welcome and Apologies

- 1.1 The Chairman (Rob Bennett) welcomed the Board and other participants via MS Teams and noted apologies for absence as shown above. For reasons that were clear from the Agenda, the Chairman had proposed dispensing with a substantive standard Board meeting and wrap all business into the AGM. This was agreed.

#### Item 2. Minutes of the Board meeting held on June 8<sup>th</sup> 2020 – AGM201204(1)

- 2.1. The Minutes were agreed and, recognizing that the September Board meeting had been cancelled, all actions identified in June had either been taken or superseded with the passage of time.

#### Item 3. Review of TGKP – paper AGM 201204(2) by Dawn Hudd

- 3.1. Dawn Hudd gave a precis of her paper circulated in advance to the Board. Following Matthew Norwell's departure, the Greater North Kent Leaders' Group (GNKLG) felt it was appropriate to take stock of the purpose and direction of TGKP and had asked Dawn to update the review undertaken in 2019. Following discussion of interviewees' feedback at their meeting on 26 November, the GNKLG were unanimous in proposing that TGKP should be wound-up and attention turn urgently to a new North Kent grouping.
- 3.2. Alan Jarrett thanked Dawn for her report and suggested this was the 'end of the beginning': much work lay ahead to determine the nature of a new grouping and associated governance issues. Mike Whiting confirmed that on behalf of KCC he supported the recommendation and emphasized that KCC would want to continue to collaborate with North Kent authorities in any new arrangements. Jeremy Kite observed that in a different devolutionary

environment the particular composition of TGKP would probably have had a place, but new challenges called for new arrangements. He and other Members emphasized their appreciation of Richard Longman's abilities and shared desire to retain him as part of those new arrangements.

- 3.3. Neil Davies concurred that senior officers would try to develop a solution that worked for Richard. There were quite a few practical matters that would need to be sorted out, including TGKP's residual interests in the legacy TIGER component of the Kent & Medway Business Fund, and the North Kent Enterprise Zone.
- 3.4. On the question of timescale for implementing the changes, it was noted that TGKP's Constitution specified a minimum 6-month period for terminating the Partnership. Neil suggested that aiming for 31 March 2021 to complete the wind-up of TGKP would be desirable. The Chairman suggested that if there was consensus on this, the 6-month notice period could be over-ridden and concurred with Monique Bonney's suggestion of dealing with notice to amend the Constitution and terminate the partnership via a single motion.
- 3.5. **Alan Jarrett proposed the motion to terminate TGKP, this was seconded by Martin Cox and supported unanimously.**

#### **Item 4. TGKP Budget – AGM 201204(3) – Paper by Richard Longman and Paul Woollven**

- 4.1. The Chairman asked the Board to note the financial position as set out in the report. Richard confirmed that the outturn estimates were predicated on a full financial year so if anything it was likely that outturn spend would be below this estimate and the contribution to reserves would increase. The Board **NOTED** the report.

#### **Item 5. Next Steps**

- 5.1. The Chairman asked Richard to circulate a note he had prepared on next steps. This was focused on the winding-up of TGKP rather than the establishment of any new arrangements. Alan Jarrett asked senior officers across the member authorities to work together to support this process.

RL

#### **Item 6. Chairman's Report – AGM 201204(4)**

- 6.1. The Chairman's report had been circulated in advance. Rob Bennett recorded his particular thanks to Matthew Norwell for his contribution to TGKP prior to his departure in October, and to Richard Longman. He thanked all Members of the Board for their support not just over the past year but many previous years, and Swale BC and Medway Council for carrying out HR and Accountable Body functions. It was unfortunate that other commitments had prevented Private Sector Members from attending but Rob assured the Board that, from his conversations with them, they shared his desire to contribute to thinking about private sector engagement in any future arrangements.
- 6.2. Alan Jarrett formally thanked Rob Bennett for his Chairmanship of TGKP over many years – an object lesson in the dangers of volunteering – and expressed the hope that engagement with the private sector would include Rob himself. Jeremy Kite echoed these remarks and commented that part of TGKP's longevity, when countless other partnerships had come and gone, had been about working collaboratively on shared priorities that rose above parochial interests. Future arrangements needed to find new and effective ways of melding public and private sector perspectives. Neil added that when Covid-19-related restrictions relaxed sufficiently, the Board would like to host a dinner to mark the occasion.
- 6.3. There being no other business, the Chairman thanked everyone and closed the meeting at 3.05pm.

TGKP, 4 December 2020